

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 12580 181315Z
ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 NSC-05 PM-03 SP-02 L-01
INR-05 NSAE-00 ACDA-10 /053 W
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R 181306Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0240
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12580

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, MPOL, GW
SUBJ: WEU INVESTIGATION OF OTRAG

REF: BONN 06466 DTG 101814Z APR 78

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DIRECTOR OF WEU ARMAMENTS CONTROL
AGENCY TOLD AMBASSADOR ORIGIN OF WEU INVESTIGATION
OF OTRAG AND SAID THAT HE EXPECTS WEU WILL FIND NO
FAULT WITH OTRAG PROJECT. END SUMMARY

2. DURING APRIL 17 CALL ON AMBASSADOR, GENERAL
LEONELLI, DIRECTOR OF WEU ARMAMENTS CONTROL AGENCY,
RAISED SUBJECT OF OTRAG, NOTING THAT AGENCY IS
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CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE OTRAG PROJECT (SEE PARA 4
REFTEL). LEONELLI SAID THAT WEU INQUIRY WAS RESULT
OF INTERROGATION SUBMITTED BY FRENCH COMMUNIST
SENATOR, SERGE BOUCHENY, TO WEU ASSEMBLY WHICH IN TURN
REFERRED IT TO WEU COUNCIL. THAT BODY IN TURN
COMMISSIONED ARMAMENTS CONTROL AGENCY TO INVESTIGATE
MATTER AND REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL. LEONELLI SPECULATED

THAT BOUCHENY WAS INFLUENCED BY FRG PARLIAMENTARIAN, FRITZ MENDER, WHO HAD ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AGENCY LOOK INTO MATTER. MENDER, HOWEVER, WAS ACTING OUT OF BENEVOLENT MOTIVATION IN THAT HE HOPED WEU REPORT WOULD CLEAR AWAY SOME OF THE SUSPICIONS CONCERNING OTRAG. BOUCHENY, OF COURSE, HAD OTHER ENDS IN MIND.

3. LEONELLI THOUGHT THAT THE WEU WOULD COME UP WITH A POSITIVE REPORT ON OTRAG, STATING THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT OTRAG HAS TO DATE LAUNCHED ONLY ONE SMALL VECTOR TO AN ALTITUDE OF 8,000 METERS. LEONELLI SAID THAT BOUCHENY ALLEGED THAT OTRAG WAS DEVELOPING CRUISE MISSILES. LEONELLI REMARKED IN AN ASIDE THAT HE THOUGHT THE OTRAG OPERATION WAS SOME SORT OF FINANCIAL FRAUD.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN A COPY OF ARMAMENTS CONTROL AGENCY'S REPORT ON OTRAG WHEN IT IS COMPLETED.

HARTMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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